

**Alcohol, Hygiene and Legislation.** Edward Huntington Williams, M. D., N. Y. The Goodhue Co., 1915.

Dr. Williams makes a sharp distinction between the use and the abuse of alcohol; between the "normal" moderate drinker and the "abnormal" inebriate. He believes that the present methods of prohibitive legislation have failed and that there should be substituted such legislation as would cut down promptly on the use of distilled liquors of high alcoholic content, and encourage the use of the lighter beers and wines. He hopes, through education, the whole problem of alcohol may be settled by evolution rather than revolution. He claims a direct relation between prohibitive legislation, and increase in the consumption of alcohol, increase in the use of narcotic drugs, insanity, amount of mortgaged property, etc. He thinks the use of alcohol has been blamed for too much pathology. He finds that Kansas has 1.3 more insane persons per 100,000 than the rest of the states, but in arriving at this conclusion, he excludes six states because of "thick population" and Oregon and Washington because they form a "unique group." He would work more toward keeping the drinker away from drink, than drink from the drinker; and yet malaria might be beyond control if one simply aimed at keeping persons from the source of infection instead of eradicating mosquito-breeding swamps. The book shows that prohibitive legislation is not at present prohibiting but does not prove the case against such legislation, properly executed. The following is from an editorial in Collier's for June 17, 1916: "— in the city of Wichita, Kansas, the saloons were running years after the prohibition laws were supposed to have gone into effect, but when a dry mayor was elected and the laws rigidly enforced, the bank clearings increased from \$1,200,000 a week to \$3,000,000 a week, in three years; merchants' collections improved; and, whereas 40% of the insured workmen had been in arrears, they now paid up, and some in advance. —" While it may be a happen-so that improved conditions and enforced prohibition came together, yet these facts offer some evidence against assertions that business depression must necessarily follow in the wake of successful prohibitive legislation.

Dr. Williams's book is interesting to all who consider the problem of alcohol. J. H. C.

**The Clinics of John B. Murphy, M. D.,** at Mercy Hospital, Chicago. Volume V, Number III (June 1916). Octavo of 176 pages, 42 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1916. Price per year, Paper, \$8.00; Cloth, \$12.00

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**A Handbook of Infant Feeding.** By Lawrence T. Royster, M. D., illustrated, St. Louis. C. V. Mosby, 1916. Price \$1.25.

In the first half of this compendium of infant feeding Royster presents in a very refreshing manner his personal views on the subject. In general he has outlined important features of recognized methods. He also explains in words of one syllable phenomena which usually are shrouded in obscurity—such, for example, as digestive "adaptation" to certain food elements.

When, in the latter half of the treatise, he endorses for general use the caloric and percentage methods of feeding and endeavors to prove that they are simple and easy, he is naturally less successful. That the methods are not simple Royster makes quite plain by his very effort to demonstrate their simplicity, approximately twenty pages of the otherwise lucid monograph being devoted to algebraic formulas for modifying milk.

In my opinion these methods are not deserving of the position they occupy in the minds of practitioners. I have before pointed out, in this connection, that it is not the percentages nor calories ingested that nourish a baby—but the amounts digested and assimilated.

As a whole, the compendium can be read with benefit by pediatricists as well as general practitioners. S. B.

**The Biology and Treatment of Venereal Diseases and the Biology of Inflammation and its Relationship to Malignant Disease.** By J. E. R. McDonagh, F. R. C. S. Philadelphia and New York: Lea & Febiger. 1916.

One regarding the innocent title of this work and limiting himself to the mere expectation of a clinical treatise with the scientific aspects of venereal diseases duly amplified in the text will be surprised to discover its real depth and scope. To be sure the anticipated ground is well and clearly covered. But a large portion of the book is devoted to histological, that is, mainly cytological, studies in their most fundamental relations. In addition the author has conducted an extensive and searching investigation in the field of micro-chemistry and from observations on tinctorial reactions has evolved views upon the nature and mechanism of most subtle chemico-physical processes of living tissue. By means of numerous, painstaking and seemingly accurate observations there is an attempt to discover the basic facts, and deductions are carefully drawn from these. However the reasoning is often more plausible than convincing and is sometimes contradictory. To fully appreciate the book one needs a knowledge of the discoveries of Unna and Pappenheim, Abderhalden and Emil Fisher in ad-